

Approved 11/9/10

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, September 23, 2010
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Note: This meeting was rescheduled from September 14, 2010 due to a lack of quorum at that time.

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, Julie Carr, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Christine Davidson-McCord, Tolu Odunlami, Donna Vincent Roa and David Zbarsky

Absent: Seth Adams

Guest: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Anne Goodman – Resident and prospective Commissioner

Alicia Hosmer – Resident and prospective Commissioner

Vinny Magno – Resident and prospective Commissioner

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Dighe

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 10, 2010 meeting were reviewed and Davidson-McCord moved and Roa seconded approval with no changes. The Commission approved the minutes unanimously.

Second Interviews with Potential Commissioners

Commissioners met and asked questions of Anne Goodman, Alicia Hosmer, and Vinny Magno. Each candidate was given 10 minutes to discuss their respective background, interests and strengths and reasons for wanting to serve on the Commission.

Commissioners had the opportunity to ask questions of each candidate.

White Tailed Deer Task Force Status Report

Davidson-McCord reported on the deliberations of the task force to date. The State optimum recommendation for deer density is 10-15 animals per square mile and acceptable standards are 30-40 animals. Rockville's deer population is estimated to be 200 animals per square mile. The management goal for the herd is unclear at this time.

Last year there were 383 vehicle collisions involving deer. Lyme disease is not that significant a threat (more disease carried by mice). However, environmental degradation (the consumption of woody plants) is substantial on City lands and residential landscaping.

Commission Minutes
September 23, 2010
Page 2.

The task force has identified four management strategies or options:

- Reproductive Interference,
- Deterrence and Relocation,
- Lethal Management, and
- Leave the Existing Herd Unmanaged

Reproductive birth control could cost as much as \$1,500 per animal per year.

Lethal reduction could involve guns, bows or both. If harvested, the deer would be given to local food banks.

The most likely solution may be a combination of approaches depending on the area of the City and the proximity to schools and homes.

The Commission expressed a consensus that one or more of the management options should be pursued and that the *do nothing* option be discarded.

Multi-City Meeting on October 14, 2010

Charles presented the Commission with a draft agenda for this meeting and discussion on topics and timeframes ensued. The meeting is scheduled from 7:30-9:30 at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. Invited City Boards and Commissions include Gaithersburg, Frederick, Greenbelt, Laurel, Bowie and Annapolis. The draft agenda was approved. The Commission also inquired about providing snacks and beverages for the guests. We will also need 5-6 flip charts and markers.

In light of the meeting on October 14, 2010, Roa moved and Kravitz seconded a motion to cancel the regularly-scheduled Commission meeting on October 12. Commissioners approved the motion unanimously.

Red Gate Golf Course Status

Dighe provided Commissioners with a summary of developments regarding the Redgate Golf Course. The Mayor and Council have decided to pay off the golf fund debt with a one-time payment of general fund. The Mayor and Council have also created a task force to review the golf course and make recommendations. These were presented at the September 13, 2010 Mayor and Council meeting. All of the recommendations involve retaining the golf course at this time. The Commission will continue to follow this issue.

Committee Reports

Watershed Protection

The Committee met and discussed the need to conduct a fall stream clean up on the segment of Maryvale Creek that has been adopted by the Commission. A decision was made to schedule a clean up for Sunday, October 17, 2010 from 2:00-4:30 pm. The Commission will advertise the event in the neighborhood as well.

The group also publicized the *Drug Take Back* Program that the Rockville police are conducting on Saturday, September 25, 2010. The program aims to remove expired or unneeded prescription drugs from home to prevent abuse by children and water pollution from flushing the material down the drain.

Sustainable Development and Energy

The Committee conducted a joint meeting with a committee representing the Chamber of Commerce to discuss a draft proposal to establish a tax credit for existing commercial buildings that pursue LEED-EB certification.

Outreach and Education

The Committee met and considered ways to promote recycling and improve the City's website. The Committee is recommending moving forward to create a recycling magnet. They would also be interested in information on recycling rates across the City that will allow these efforts to be targeted or focused.

Roa has applied for \$25,000 in grant funding from AOL to enhance commercial recycling. Her grant project is called *Decide for the Environment* and a decision on the application is expected by November 1, 2010.

Remembering Carl Henn

Commissioners discussed renaming the existing Environmental Excellence Award to henceforth be known as the *Carl Henn Environmental Excellence Award*. Carr moved and Kravitz seconded such action and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Next the Commission considered whether to bestow the first *Carl Henn Environmental Excellence Award* to Carl Henn posthumously. Kravitz moved and Roa seconded awarding the *Carl Henn Environmental Excellence Award* to Carl Henn posthumously. The motion passed unanimously.

The award will be presented to Carl's family at the Mayor and Council meeting scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2010.

Commission Minutes
September 23, 2010
Page 4.

Executive Session

The Commission went into executive session to discuss the Commissioner candidates. At the end of the discussion, the Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend that the Mayor nominate Anne Goodman to fill the existing Commissioner vacancy to replace Tolu Odunlami. Mr. Charles has forwarded this recommendation to the City Clerk's office and the nomination will be discussed at the October 4, 2010 meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 14, 2010 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road**, Rockville, Maryland, 20851. The Environmental Boards and Commissions of Gaithersburg, Frederick, Greenbelt, Laurel, Annapolis and Bowie have been invited to attend.

Follow Up/Action Items:

- Mark Charles will arrange for the snacks and flip charts for the October 14, 2010 multi-city meeting at Croydon Creek
- Mark Charles will check on the spelling of several Commissioner's names on the City website and correct as needed.
- Mark Charles will also try to add the Commission meetings to the City's electric calendar and email newsletter.
- Commissioners will meet on Sunday, October 17, 2010 to conduct a stream clean up in their adopted segment of Maryvale Creek. Steve Cardon will contact Amanda Matheny to arrange for supplies and a refuse pick up on Monday.